

A NEW COMBINATION IN *BULBOSTYLIS* FROM THE WEST INDIES

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AS A RESULT of literature and herbarium studies of Lesser Antillean Cyperaceae, the following new combination in the genus *Bulbostylis* is made. A complete systematic treatment of the family will be published in the forthcoming volume of the *Flora of the Lesser Antilles* by Richard A. Howard.

Bulbostylis capillaris (L.) Kunth ex C. B. Clarke in Hooker f. Fl. Brit. India 6: 652. 1893, subspecies *antillana* (Britton) T. Koyama, stat. & comb. nov.

Stenophyllus antillanus Britton, Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 43: 447. 1916. TYPE: Dominica, Lloyd 822.

Bulbostylis antillana (Britton) Fernald, Rhodora 40: 392. 1938; Kral. Sida 4: 100. fig. 26. 1971.

Bulbostylis capillaris sensu C. B. Clarke in Urban, Symb. Antill. 2(1): 88. 1900, *pro parte*, as to the Martinique specimen, non C. B. Clarke, 1893.

I regard *Bulbostylis antillana* as a subspecies of *B. capillaris*. The two species are an excellent match in details of achenes and glumes; the difference between them is based only on vegetative characters. The wiry leaves of *B. antillana* are generally twice as wide as the capillary leaves of *B. capillaris*, and are nearly smooth or only weakly scabrid in contrast to the densely hispid pubescence of the latter. Also, the culms of the former are naturally relatively more rigid than those of the latter, but without clear-cut boundaries of dimension. The inflorescences of *B. antillana* normally bear twice as many spikelets as those of *B. capillaris* and are always lax and open with several solitary spikelets only. These habital differences, however, are not always definitive because intermediate phases occur. The difference between the two, therefore, interestingly corresponds to that of the Asian *B. densa* subsp. *densa* and subsp. *trifida*.

The report of *Bulbostylis capillaris* from Martinique by C. B. Clarke was based on Duss 758 (K, NY!, P), which was determined as *B. capillaris* var. *major*, a manuscript name given by Duss. Another specimen, Duss 478 (*pro parte*) (NY!) from Martinique also bears a determination as *B. capillaris*. Both of these, serving as the only bases of the report of *B. capillaris* from the Lesser Antilles, are in my opinion *B. capillaris* subsp. *antillana*. The distribution of the endemic subspecies includes the Lesser Antillean islands of Dominica, Martinique, St. Lucia, and Îles des Saintes; the typical phase of *B. capillaris*, occurring in the United States, Mexico, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic, is not known from the Lesser Antilles up to now.

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